PZ 3
.H7614
M
COPY 1

THE MYSTERY OF A PYRAMID

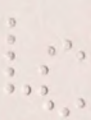
By FRANCES A. HOOD

PUBLISHED BY THE AUTHOR
523 West Avenue South
La Crosse, Wis.

PRICE ONE DOLLAR

THE MYSTERY OF A PYRAMID

By FRANCES A. HOOD



PUBLISHED BY THE AUTHOR
523 West Avenue South
La Crosse, Wis.

PZ3
.H7614
M

Copyright, 1915
By Frances A. Hood

$1,00

©Cl.A410603

AUG 30 1915

Ko1

FOREWORD

Will the reader of our story look carefully, as he progresses through its pages, and see if among them, he can detect the rhythm; requiring a transposition of words at times in order that it may be attained.

"The Mystery of a Pyramid" is placed in your hands by the writer, asking that if, after reading it, you can conscientiously praise the work, such praise may be forwarded, to the address given at foot of title page, and on cover.

"The Mystery of a Pyramid" will be followed by other stories, in rapid succession, to be obtained at the same address.

AUTHOR.

THE MYSTERY OF A PYRAMID.

CHAPTER I

When laws were few, protecting those unfortunates displeasing higher powers, there lay within the desert, east of the pyramids, a city of refuge, for hunted men.

This was placed where caravans might stop, as to and fro they went in trade, but few, escaping for their lives, had strength to reach its gates.

The State, had subsidized a band of Bedouins robbers, infesting the sole oasis, between that city and the pyramids, so no help might be obtained from them, to save a life past all sympathy of authorities.

It was believed by governments, that when communities regarded one among them as worthy death, it must be true; and while blood was not wished to lie at any door, the desert might, in secret, end all, for the criminal.

Within the fertile valley of the Nile, in that

far day, when men lived simply, and their wants were few, the homes were clustered near each other mid the palms, for safety and companionship.

Among the dwellers of the tents, were some, whose interests were with Sahara's sands; and unto these, with all the rest, did Ibrahim, "The Patriarch" of the tribe, tell of the life to come, and how men made themselves in this one, fit or otherwise, to enter where the blest are ever happy, with eternal life made theirs.

There had been with the valley, lo these many years, another band of outlaws; and their chief, declaring himself ruler, and usurping power belonging to the individual, claimed all for self, he deemed the best.

Beautiful and beloved of her father Ibrahim, Lillah, the Arab maid whose heart was in the heart of Aladin, attracted him; and he resolved she should be his, regardless of her wishes, or the hopes cherished by him who became the husband, more to her, than all earth held beside.

Stirring against that husband, all the evil natures over which he had control, that he

might drive him forth to die upon the sands, it was not long till this had been accomplished, and his tribe, in part, longed for a death that heretofore, had been one feared; while Hashid El Raman, his enemy, obtained his heart's desire, in that he fled.

Night, brought to Ibrahim a message, by one long faithful, where devotion meant the risk of life itself; and quietly The Patriarch had then warned Aladin, so that with terror in their hearts, the three most strongly bound in withes of love, made all in readiness that then they might, to save his life.

With Lillah held close to a breaking heart, he made his way in darkness, to her father's tent, and there disguised himself in garments left by him who told; then laid his love upon the heart of his sweet wife, and made to Heaven with her, the plea for help in his extremity.

Stealing on foot, from out the fronded palms, in a direction Hashid El Raman had felt would not be his to choose, as lying far across the desert plain, he swung off through the night, and gained the shifting sands.

Oh, for a horse! had been the mighty wish in all their hearts, and none of them before, had use or gold for it; while now, was every steed among the dwellers of the tents, under the eye of him that hired all.

Till morning broke, far in the eastern sky, emblazoned with insignia of hell, torrid and fierce, and dreadful, his limbs had borne him on, but still the pyramids were not yet reached.

His blistered feet he drew from out the sand, telling himself the two at home, ceased not to pray for him in anguish, as he struggled on; until the withering heat became so like a fiery blast, it seemed to scathe his throat and lungs, each time he breathed it in.

Almost unconscious, he had come at last unto the shade where he might rest till night, prone on the scorching earth; and told himself that El Raman would track him neath the cruel moon, no farther than the spot whereon he lay, for he must die, if help came not to him.

Feeble and panting, as one fever had bereft of strength to flee or fear, he drew himself close to the wall of stone, that held a little

coolness for his aching frame, and told himself hope, was for him no more.

Seven hours were his, within the blistering shade, heedless of all that there might come to him; and when he wakened, on the tall facade of glistening rock, smoothed by a monarch's will, of iron strength, rested an eye, glazed almost, as in death.

Fierce his tumultuous thoughts, of El Raman; who at that moment, felt assured his prey had fled the tents, and must be then along the desert highway, wide as was the land, and longer than a human foot could tread, with heart or hope to live.

He dug his nails into the earth, with strong and bitter sense of what had been, and letting all the pent up passion of his soul find utterance in groans and sobs, that shook a frame noble and beautiful, felt hope leaving him.

Lying amid the burning sand, that swirled around a pyramid whose huge proportions rose above the earth, until its apex reared itself into a sky as brazen with its fiery face, as were the ones scowling upon him, in his tortured mind, he tore the leathern thong from

round his waist, and raising then unto his fevered lips the skin, holding a draught that once was cool, when Lillah placed it there, and warned him to drink sparingly, that he die not from thirst, ere Ormond might be reached, remembered not, but drank.

Of food, he had partaken little; and the black bread from its case within his girdle laid so flat, was much as when the wife had pressed it to her lips, bidding him eat and think of her, as it passed his.

Almost he shrieked; in awful agony of heart, and reason scarce maintained; as pictured they his Lillah in her father's tent, where he had carried her that hapless night, when mingled were their moans and tears, robbed of him and love, that was to her like flowing river, brightening all the land, laving each rock, and washing every stone, until it gleamed in lustre, beautiful as gems.

It was so cruel! such a lying scheme to wreck the life her love had made oblivious to every storm that gathered in the sky above his head, till this, did threaten all his being held, of joy.

He had courage and ambition, that declared

themselves in strong determination to fulfill all duty, and had entered into the respect and confidence of those about him, to a marked degree; so that fair promise of a leadership was his, before the enmity bewraying him, had ruined all.

Nothing remained as yet for him to do, but bear in anguish all 'gainst which his fortitude might stand; and try to hope The Patriarch, so loving to his child, might find a way to circumvent the man, laying in waste, her life.

Tender her love for him whose hand rested in blessing, on a daughter's head, for mother had she none; and all her years were in his care alone, among the tents where were the Arab women and their little ones.

Filled he her mind with knowledge that would bring them comfort; adding unto it, his art to tell the stars, that circled on their way, as had they from the daybreak of all time, he felt, and would keep on, their watching still, of human woes, until the land and sea, were merged in one.

She had grown beautiful, with every passing year; his floweret, his only blossom, worn

upon a heart telling his people wisdom lay within, stored deep and wide, with all its values, rare and unsurpassed.

Handwriting on the wall, lit by the inner lamp that burned not yet, low toward its socket, told him he must go; and Lillah, tender Lillah, then would be without a father, unprotected among howling wolves, seeking her, as the one all most wished their own; and in his fear, love's angel, brought him comfort.

Beside her, had uprisen the man, who from her infancy almost, had shared her days, until age, brought him to manhood and its cares; so that her father knew his inmost mind, and felt that true Nobility, inbred, had stamped with her inscription clear and deep, the heart and character, of him so dear unto the little one both shielded, from the least harsh wind that blew.

Now had the time come, when 'twas to be shown what was her native fibre; and she laid aside her childishness so winsome, with a firmness born of sorrow, that enthralled and vitrified her life, until it rang against the steel that met her in the way, and turned her back

upon herself, with sharp decisive locking of all doors at once, holding within them richest treasure, sought by him that sent her husband forth, to die.

CHAPTER II

The awful hours had passed; and Aladin lay upon the cooling earth, feeling all must again begin for him, leading unto another day, that might be with disaster, ere the night brought respite from its agony, were he to live till then.

His trembling hand lay pressed against the stone, deep in the sand that held the sun-heat yet, and felt a movement of the mass, that told him he had found an opening in the pyramid.

With bounding heart, he scraped away the earth, and pushed the great stone inward; till his weight and strength combined, forced him an entrance to the tomb of some Egyptian monarch—as he knew—who might then be, with all bringing so many slaves to death building the pyramids, wishing that cooling drink be his; who in life, refused all mercy, to dependency.

He found by sense of touch, the great stone grooved, and resting on another in such way, as to provide a door; and entered he, with feelings not to be unfolded, in the words taught him through which to pour the eloquence for which he had been famed, 'mong many men.

Few were the tents beneath the palm trees strewn, girding the tribal boundaries of that far time, and his had been a silver tongue, that chimed for every good, 'gainst every wrong.

Sweeping through his mind, came thoughts of what might make him then with safety, till all danger of pursuit were past; and longing for more water, he felt the Nile, flowed near at hand, ~~and~~ that to its brink, might steal one, when the darkness came, to fill his leathern bottle, then return.

All was in solitude, and the dead, lying within sarcophagus so high, was with a thing making the tomb to hold—it might be—what would cool his thirst for life; since all provision would be surely made for drink, with food as well, to last throughout the years of

an existence, then confined within the coolness of the pyramid.

Wishing to make examination of the stone by which had entered he, the flint within his belt he did withdraw, and striking fire, lighted a taper thin, to hold above, until he saw it well.

Carefully took he note of all about the door he had swung wide, then closed exactly as before; feeling assurance his, that it might opened be, with ease, and bring him all security, when within the tomb, the hand that found the sole place, upon the very center meeting it, where pressure made the entrance to appear, outside, would close with care, the rock.

Thankful his heart, as on the floor he sank, and felt its coolness, at the foot of stairs, in height proportioned to the length of time needed by desert sand, to pile itself against the pyramid, before the mummy there would wake from sleep, and wait for help to cast its cerements aside.

For a little space, he thought on all; then turned unto an inner room, that held within

its wide extent, perchance, the stores of which his future, stood in need.

Another taper, guided him to oil; the turning of a screw, set flowing easily, and silver lamps with many wicks at hand, threw mellow radiance when he lighted them, upon the sumptuous furnishings about, telling him that a queen, lay in the tomb above.

Behind carved screens of costly wood, preserved by art Egyptian, from decay, row after row of bins he found, heaped high with corn; and near them stood the massive water jugs, that sealed with care, stood waiting for a thirst to be assuaged, brought swift to one, by him.

All his anxiety to reach the place of refuge, vanished; as he told himself this would be far better, than to feel he must remain so far from Lillah and her father, or live without them, till his name were cleared from all that blackened it, at least.

Not more than one night, on the desert, might she live; he told himself, and to the tents, must they not yet return, lest Hashid El Ra-

man make him to lie as low, as now he would believe him, in the sand.

One night upon the sands would reunite them then, and he might make his way across the waste, to find her before dawn; when all had laid aside belief that he yet lived.

Then thought he of her agony; when she should be with news that Ormond held him not.

Weighing all, he measured off the time and felt another day, might find within the shadow of the pyramids, those who pursued him; and at night, their fiery steeds would bear them on, seeking to overtake him, ere the gates of refuge entered were, by him.

Would Lillah lay by hope? he answered no! not until she had tried to follow him, and felt the only way to save his life, was to remain in comfort where he was, until a time should come, bringing them each to each, once more, in blissfulness.

So he surveyed the riches all around, scattered profusely by the hand of Love, and told himself if he escaped at last, and was restored unto her with clean name, that would increase importantly, as time went on, and make the

orator to whom men listened so attentively, as ~~one~~ that held their minds to thoughts of good, one widely known, he would return, and move them from the pyramid.

All that was there, would well nigh lade a caravan; with carven gold, and most consummate worth, that by discoverer's rights, belonged to him, approaching death, before it met his eye, that told him God was good, and held him from the ravening lion's maw.

The light burned brightly, and without fear of any seeing his comfort, in the glare of desert sun, left he that, telling him dreams were not his, nor did he lay a prey between the pyramids, to those that sought his life.

He longed to know the time; and once again ascending to the door in darkness, laid his ear close unto it and listened; but no sound was there, as the heat surged 'gainst its front, and with a sickening sense of what that meant to life, he gently drew the stone within, and the great shadow of the pyramid, told him the hour was after three.

Closing the door again, returned he then, back to his lamp and luxury; enjoyed not, as

his Lillah's woe bore in upon his heart, and told him of her suffering, that had for him, been sunshine's self, since first her smile beamed on him, in their childhood sweet.

The hours crept on, until he sank to sleep; with thoughts of how the only thing man's mind could have conceived, whereby his name and power might be perpetuated, through the centuries, had been the work of kings, in selfishness apalling, raising unto themselves the pyramids.

That their belief, led them to build themselves mansions, where they might dwell in plenteousness of all surrounding them in palaces on the Nile, and make unto their wives, an offering of the heart's wealth—monarch might possess,as well as slave—in tomb magnificent and all enduring, well he knew.

For him, life would be useless, without Lillah; and he asked himself, might it not be, that when he should explore more carefully, a passage would be found, leading unto a larger pyramid near to the one in which he lay, and thought on the magnificence within.

Had it been the thought of kingly minds,

that human passions held, to make the most of opportunities for love and dear companionship, until the sweet time should appear, of which had often talked the mated ones, who knew a separation must ensue sooner or late, and 'gainst its awful suffering, provide the pyramids?

Would it be theirs then, to be again united to their loves, and in the leisure and luxuriance made that awaiting them, pass all the time they must, between death earthly, and the day to come, when all shades, must be in their final drear abode?

How far beyond the poverty of such belief, was that The Patriarch had sown, deep in the fallow ground of Lillah's heart and his; bringing to him sweet pictures, as he lay and felt they might again not meet, where heartache, and the sunheat, threw upon their lives, suffering they fain would be without, in peace.

He thought the way pursued by Pharaohs, was shameless, void of feeling for the slave, and without excuse for sacrificing lives, because a day was theirs, when none might dare to gainsay, iron will.

Force, held its sway, above the toilers at the pyramids, raising its lash of scorpions, and flaying the scorched backs, until the bleeding bodies underneath, were baked, and all encrusted with their blood.

Steadily toiled the workers, for a lifetime might not suffice—at times—for Pride to raise the apex higher than another standing near, telling of more slaves and power, to rear its head into the coppery sky.

Lighting more lamps, he placed in every corner of that splendid room, close to the water jugs at last, his eye fell on a gleaming hasp of gold; sparkling with gems, beneath the many lights, inviting hand to grasp it, which his did.

Then on his sight, there fell a vision bright, of radiance more dazzling, than the flash of morning light streaming from scimetar most keen, held in the hand of chieftain, leading his men to battle; or splashing spray of fountain, glistening like diamonds rare, upon the face of beauty, bathing itself in coolness and delight.

Long looked he at the walls, resplendent in the lamplight there, telling himself their rich-

ness, might well dower the bride of one crowned King, not alone of Egypt, but of the whole earth, Emperor.

At length, leaving the spot, he followed down the hallway, till it brought him to another door, in all similitude, like unto the one then passed.

Opening with ease of him that knew the way, his eye fell on the counterpart of that great chamber at his back, with all provision for the king, wrapped close in mummy cloths, that lay and waited for the day to come, freeing him from the awful death, that held him prisoner, to the terminal of time that would release him unto happiness.

Treasures innumerable, were ranged around the place, telling a ruler's pride in ancestry, and in belongings and accoutrements, that bade eyes unaccustomed to their worth, but knowing gold, and gems, and corn, and oil, with sealed perfumes, and spices rich and rare, to read a tale of opulence and greed, that made him with them, wonder where the world, might offer market for his hoard.

Great mirrors swung between their silver knobs, reflected from their polished depths,

the ancient tapestreis, o'er which the eyes and backs of slaves had bent, with tears blinding their sight, and lash upraised above them till the work was done; making for one that Emperor sat, enthroned on human hearts—and not within—the pleasant things to see, reminding him of those more dear to him in pictures, it might be, than in reality.

He knew well, they were priceless in their worth, and felt them with him in his solitude; then thinking of his Lillah, and her sire, across the jewelled rug his footsteps sped, nor slackened pace, until he reached the doorway, once again.

CHAPTER III

Cooler the stone, and all apprised was he, that Noontime's march had ended at his goal, long hours before; while he had made investigation of the pyramids, leading him to the certainty of wealth untold, might he their stores remove.

How would he make them safe from Bedouins, preying upon each other, and in all neighborhoods, save those within the city

walls, that held in safety, under lock and bar, all laid within one common guarded vault?

Were Lillah only there, with Ibrahim, all would be found, making their hearts turn yearningly no more, unto the tent, bereft of that then with them in the pyramid; where, with each other's love, they lacked for naught.

Listening long, he stood, with ear applied most patiently to the hot stone that held for him but silence, till he felt it might be opened; and if any sought him yet, they must have passed the pyramids that morn too early far, for them to pause; knowing they might by daylight, on their barbs, make desert well, again.

Shadows disclosed the time, as nearly even; and yet above the desert, blazed the sky, in brazen bluster of unseemly glare.

He had felt the day one not yet long, but wearied with the thing done, and the thoughts it brought, laid himself down at last, upon the couch awaiting queenly form; that annotated nothing of the time, and fell asleep; to dream not, but to awaken after hours of rest, refreshed, and hearing in his inner ear, a tone-

less voice; distinctly clear, deliberate, and with question in the words.

"Art thou within my tomb, thinking to wait for one who loves thee true, to come and be drawn into it, by thee?"

Aladin lay in silence; for a time, then answered truthfully, as was his wont, I am; and in a few days think I, she will come, and we will make a home within the pyramids, that hold in death, two forms, that never, do I think, will use them other than as now.

Listening carefully, her answer, as it fell upon the table of his inner ear, told him a mind excarnate, spoke.

True it is, that we shall never use them otherwise, and unto one who will be generous with their store, and make it serve the poor and needy well, do I bequeath it gladly; feeling time has brought all, where it should have been at first.

Thou wilt reach a city, where men in trade, will be with camels; and not safely then, hazard thy trips alone, or in sole company of one well worthy trust, unto the pyramids holding our wealth; but once, must risk a life angels will

guard on every hand, that good may come of it.

When on the beasts The Patriarch will provide, thy dear ones shall make known their presence here, before some other morning is far spent, thou wilt bring them in, and find a way to carry unto Ormond, all these riches vast.

Yea, then said Aladin, and when once my Lillah bears me company, it will be days, ere our return is made, taking us unto danger from the Bedouin bands, infesting all the desert round about.

We will rest, amid the luxury, while even the camels shall have plentitude, awaiting us between the pyramids.

And there reveal thy presence; said the queen warningly, then added, think not of that, when thou shalt be in readiness for eyes that may approach, and look for them that own the beasts.

Thou may'st awnings stretch, making a room close to the stone, for thy sweet wife, that thou wilt guard there from intrusive eyes, while underneath the one before, will lie The Patriarch.

Then can I pass within the door, and bring thence many things to make our load; said

Aladin, and the queen rejoined, At Ormond, men will but suppose thou buyest, as do all, and will not suspect the hidden treasure that is here, but as time passes, will it be otherwise; and dangers will attend thy journeyings, calling for wise precaution thou must use.

Its distribution, will be surely that, making thy time count greatly for man's good; while all will be as angels shall advise, and thou wilt feel the jewels, that have caused so many tears, for blood spilled in their winning, will be at length with needy ones, and recompense a class, crushed by the cruelty of ancient hands, red with the plundering of weak or strong.

Aladin saw his life work stretch before, with cast that gleamed along the flowery way, like mellow moonlight on the waterfall, silently dropping to the open sea a hundred feet below; leaving its mist, to feed on either hand, that verdancy wherein the love of man takes root, and through succeeding generations, ever grows.

He felt the life would fit within his wish; and that for him, no better monument could

be, than one built in the hearts of fellow men, of generous deeds, and helpful, kindly words.

Gladly assenting to the queen, he heard her say, There is a secret chamber, that for thee, whose mind I read, as men read books, and know thou speak'st the truth, I will unclose; and thou shalt find it filled with what enriches, past all other gain, even of the whole earth.

Aladin felt her meaning, and asked all that she might tell; hearing her in return, say Well for thee the asking.

One of the laws beyond the tomb, demands it, ere receipt be thine; and if thou wilt remember this, more will be told, as I am telling now, while earthly life shall last with thee, than pyramid may hold, of value rare.

Aladin hearkened closely, as the queen said this, then added slowly and impressively, Be watchful of thy words, and acts; keeping all truth with thee, to the least particular; so that when thou shalt long for certainty, not to be gained from man, and earnestly shalt ask it, of Excarnate Mind, it will be made thine, in "The Still, Small Voice," waiting to be with all.

Pondering deep her words, he sank to sleep; and when awakened he, the morning light had made the pyramids its own, for more than half the space of one forenoon.

Unto the door he hastened, there to hear loud voices cursing the heat, and telling how the form of him that stole away on foot, from out the tents, must now be buried in the blistering sand.

If breath were with it still, too dear the cost to them, of that to glut the savage hatred of their chief, for him who married where himself had wished, and hired them forthwith, to track the quarry, lest the desert fail of bringing it to death.

Ormond might scarce be reached alive, on back of steed or camel, with corn and drink, plentifully in store! and not by one on foot, with only food and moisture, such as Aladin might bear!

Why not lie still and sleep nights, then after days enough shall pass, for us to have behind us, all the trip, return from here, and tell the tyrant, him we sought, is dead? said one that then laid nearest, to the listening ear.

A fine mess of pottage that would be, were Aladin to live, and come again for Lillah, when he found the tribe was minded to believe no more the word of Hashid, and one bore him the news; answered another, whom he well knew, had served the chieftain well.

Vainly he wished the first man, had not said the thing he had; lest report made by the others, lose to him his head.

All then agreed to start again; when evening shadows should have cooled the air, and under their spread awnings laid themselves, to pass the time as best they might, till then.

Aladin lingered still; and heard one say, The wife, that mourns her husband, as does she that Hashid thinks to carry to his tent, may thankful be, no way was there, to give her company to him so dear; then die, as he has, in the awful heat baking the flesh tight to their bones, that are strong, and able to endure.

She will lie low as he, within a month, and be in Paradise as well; another cried, for the heavenly nature we all know is hers, will carry her above the clouds of earth, where with her

husband—who will be with all remembrance for his valor and his worth, among us—she will ever dwell with angels holy, in the Great Beyond.

He heard, and wrung his hands, in tears of anguish; tearing at his robe with trembling fingers, then strained his ear to catch, if it might be so, something more.

She surely will be following after him, and the man wanting her, will lie in wait, here at the pyramids; spake then one Aladin would have well warned, if that he might, and who added the commendatory words that were of wisdom; as he second thought.

CHAPTER IV

The lagging day departed with unwillingness, and all had gone their way, as loth as she, to leave for further labor, the lone pyramids; and he told himself that when the midnight should be with the tents three times, his Lillah would have had the word, making her fear he had been rendered helpless to maintain his life.

That she would give him up, was not his

thought; but that it might be hers to die, ere reaching him, he knew full well.

Within his long bright scarf he hid his face, and its enwrapping folds, wet with hot tears, told how the fountain in his heart sent forth its waters, bitter as Marah's stream in Egypt's land; while all his frame was rent with sobs, that choked him like the withering simoon's blast, and he made moanings, that were heard on high.

Long were the hours that brought to him unconsciousness of all save suffering, till he slept; and when the westering sun another day, sank to a bed of flame, he stole up to the stone, and looking out, the shadow told him time had passed away, until full half, was gone, that kept from Lillah's ear, the deathknell of Sweet Hope.

From Bedouin lips resounding, as those sent by Hashid, were once more with the tents, on their return from Ormond, she and Ibrahim would hear, and by it, be sent forth to follow him.

Strength must he call back, that had once been his, ere leaving it upon the desert, step

by step, as towards the pyramids he struggled on, and all his grief, had weakened him still more.

Food wished he not; but for his Lillah's sake, it must be his; and with that certainty within his heart, he ate and drank.

Then sinking on the couch, where he had heard the queen's voice in his ear, with aching heart he there called unto Him, in whose hands hidden lie the destinies of men, to send him wisdom; with a fullness that should make all life to come, as it would need to be, that he might enter at its close, the blissful land, where every dream the human heart holds dear, may be with a reality, fixed as the stars, that move not, only with their suns.

Aladin knew that some kept on their way, and turned to earth a gentle glance, as they held all beneath them, weakly in their thought; while others, glowed with brightness given them, he felt assured, by those contiguous, of import more.

Thus was his mind reflective, even when those about him, told themselves the light of God, streamed through the floor of heaven upon

the air of night, to light the way that travelers must take, across the desert drear.

Longing for what his heart had asked, he caught again the inner toneless voice; and listening with intentness, made deep thought his own, as spake The Oracle.

I am with Him on whom thou called'st but now, and unto thee will I His wishes tell; not that for one alone, are they made known, but unto those as well, to whom thou wilt reveal the mighty yearning of all angel hearts, for loved ones left among the world's dark ways, to wander on.

Knowledge have none, of all that must be known, ere any, reach the star that holds entire repose, unto the weary soul that will lie sweet, within the bosom warm and soft, of one most dear, when friends on earth have left the passing sight, and the last fond farewell, has spoken been, in tears and tenderness.

Little the mind of man may hold the thought, that when the heart shall cease its throbbing note, and the blue eyelids fall along the upturned eyes that look on Death, how unto them, he seems the dearest one they ever lost from

scenes of earthly woe, in parting from him, as their own great love.

Sometimes will he appear to mother heart, the tender brood receiving all her care, that one by one, she laid within the sepulchre of buried hopes, with anguish keen; and ofttimes seen is he, as one that held in quivering arms, the form beloved, telling in them, what words, might fail to bring from out a heart most tender, great, and true.

I am the queen, a Pharaoh held most dear; that telleth thee thy life hath found its mate, in her that with thee, lay within the Mind of Him, that held thee in His thought awhile, ere severing thy segment from the whole.

Then happy be, in thought she yet will bring to thee her tenderness; and casting fear aside, lay soft and cool, here in the pyramid, with angel telling thee the one great secret, of eternal joy, within the highest heaven—where all are high—lifted supernally, above earth's mists.

The utmost wisdom man may wish as his, will I unfold before you, in the scroll meeting the eye of mind; and when from fleshly cover-

ing it escapes, and stands with only its own nakedness, before the angel, unto whom it looks for what shall hide it from all eyes again, the robe of beauty, held in store for one bringing a spirit home, freed from all stain, may be laid over him by loving hands, fitting it into place, and finding all provision made, for that beneath.

Aladin lay and thought most earnestly awhile, then said in quietude of heart and mind, How shall I bring myself unto the time alloted me, to pass the verge of life, and feel, without a doubt to trouble it, serenity of soul.

Answered the voice, solemn and toneless, in his inner ear, And wilt thou do the thing I tell to thee, must be thy work?

Art thou afraid to struggle with thyself, in mighty warfare 'gainst an evil foe, making strange symbols on thy mind and heart, telling to whom thy Being's self, belongs?

Wilt thou turn unto Him whose name is "Good," and cry for strength, to intercede for thee, when throngs about thy life in central core, that bringing thee to death itself, as all are there in fragments, leaving the whole loaf, cut by the knife of Self?

Hast thou the wish to cling unto the whole, making thy mind and life in unison, that thou shalt keep them long upon the earth, and at the last, depart in perfect peace?

Hold fast my hand, for I am Wisdom; and I bring thee words thou well may'st wear upon the scabbard of the sword, that thou shalt find within the hallway, where thy light was shivered into jewel rays last night, as fell it sharply on the ones that shone as glitteringly, as wilt thou shine, among the stars themselves.

Stars that to thee, bear a significance, as only something resting in the beam of sun or moon, that holds more light than they, are not the ones meant by her who speaks.

I am within sarcophagus of stone, tight wound in spices, oils, and cerements, and I am with the dead, that speak no more; yet am I in the voice within thine ear, and in the words of wisdom strong and clear, thereon to paint my thought, and tell to thee, the course thou shalt pursue; if thou among the stars I linger near, wouldst counted be, and unto Heaven Above, thy mind wouldst go, when death shall set it free.

There are more Heavens than one, and each of these holds fullness of delight, man may not know.

All are enhanced in faculties, that die and entrance make, into the least, of these; but unto him who conquers Self, on earth, and living midst the same temptations fierce, assaulting other men, brings from the fight, more strength to combat yet another time, and win more surely, 'gainst insidious foe, to him, will I make known the way to rise where angels of all greatness, sweep the air in mighty curves, that bring unto them, bliss most exquisite; with all the lesser gain of an enraptured mind.

Such are the joys awaiting those that consort with the self denial and suffering, that come when life on earth, tells them of others' needs; and how to bring themselves unto the poor repellant ones, that pass along the way, and looking not for love, feel Hunger stalks beside them, menacing their breath.

These are the seething bubbles, lifted high above the boiling cauldron that the flame of earthly pleasure keeps in motion, till it casts them from its mass; and breaking as they rise,

to fall again unnoticed, whence they came, sink they beneath the whole, and bear the weight of woes unnumbered, that the race must know.

Art thou the man willing to tell thyself, in midnight ease, within thy downy bed, thou wilt arise, at call of one repulsive creature, needing thee, that Want, stride not with him unto gaunt Famine's door, waiting to seize the vitals, and with bony hand, tear life from fleshless frame, that can no longer lift itself from off the pallet loathsome, where it stretches limp?

Shall Spirit dwell still longer, on the theme more to be shunned than are the poor, dragging their weary bodies through the time daylight enables them to slave for bread?

Laden too heavily are they, with that so great in all its hideousness, that any who may look on its obtrusive shape, clad in scant rags, because of poverty, may deem it loathsome; and pass by, on the far side.

Want, will tell all that see its cold bare form, the sad old story of oppressive man, warring against a brother, in his need.

Tellest me thou, whose inmost thought I see, and note the sound thereof, as passing

through thy mind it brings unto an angel, that hears and sees all men, as e'en themselves do not, in the same time, but on close analysis, led by me as Wisdom, that thou art thinking how the cost of this, will rob thee of thy Lillah's presence, through prized hours made thine?

Dost question me within thine heart, imploring my consent that thou may'st send another in thy place, where Need has been before, and cover then her tracks with gold, employed most skillfully?

I tell to thee, no other hand than thine, trained unto gentle touch on reeking brow, can ease its pain; as thou shalt sense another's wretchedness, that forced to beg, feels past all hope of peace.

Think well upon the way of life I ask of thee to tread, and thankful be, that all will lead at last, where purling streams move with their music sweet, among the mossy grasses green and fine, and where the freed birds of earth's Summertime, wing their enraptured flight from tree and flower, more beautiful than many, blossoming in even that, celestial air.

Tell to thy soul, the years of earth are few,

and though filled to the end, with pain and self denial, if leading where the crystal wavelets sleep, almost becalmed, upon an ocean deep of all delights the human mind disfranchised and adrift upon its breast, may know—as only such may—perfectly, its power to satisfy the highest longing of a spirit rare, experiencing bliss, enrapturing, all has been gained.

Make unto thyself pyramids; that will find men within their mighty shade, telling each other, he who built them there, made none to weep, nor flagellated slaves that knelt unto the lash, pleading that it cut deep, into the very heart; that through their agony, they might find rest.

Let their tall summits, reach above a land cursed by oppression, and embittering pain, till piercing heaven, and rising through the air step after step, those tarry with them in the desert drear, who without love or care, lean restfully at last, upon the stone set by thyself, in labor thou told'st none to do for thee, but claim as thine, in Truth and Justice, fearlessly.

He who holds the scales with hand Al-

mighty, will most surely look where they point unto thee, standing between them, covered by their robe; till parted by their hands, appears thy workman's dress, and tools beside thee, thus convincing Him, that thou has worked in honesty, and with respect unto His laws; compelling thine obedience, under pain of Heavenly loss, most irreparable.

Think then, that goodness was thine aim, and noble thoughts lifted thee where angels still stand round thee, as they did on earth; and thou mayest say, Our Heavenly Father, I have made the talents Thou did'st give me, to increase, a hundred fold.

Sweet will thy recompense become, as thou shalt roam the fields of asphodel, and fresh upon thine ear each hour, will fall the blessed words of welcome, ever bringing thee, enrapturing sense, of all God giveth unto His beloved.

Aladin pondered long, the words that meant laying aside of self, and laboring as a gardener, in the vineyard ground where all grapes grew in such wild profusion, and untrained, so that at length, his heart was filled with grief; and

he gave utterance to weariness, making the queen that heard him, turn aside and tell him, only that one way, remained to bliss, more than accorded was, unto the least, who strove by their own efforts, to make clean their minds, and purify their hearts, in earthly life.

He felt discouragement of one assured that Heaven was his, for happy days, and who then suddenly was made to know it must be earned, by what was hard and hateful to the mind; so thinking all had been made known to him, that would be with mankind in mass, when it would have ensured itself an entrance to a lower one, than that so hard to gain, he felt no longer, wish to strive for more.

The Heaven all men might have, that entered there with hearts filled full of peace, and fear removed, was for him, well enough; he told himself at last, nor listened more.

Then to his thoughts came Lillah; and his heart sprang to his eyes in gushing tears, telling it unto her that waited yet, and heard his moaning cry, Will I forego my own Most Precious Love, 'mongst all that Heaven might give me, so desired?

Lillah's white soul, will rise to that bright home, where all that gives the spirit perfect joy, will shower itself upon her, as befits one, who has made herself as flowers are, that blossom in the lowlands, close to mirey clay and all unhealthfulness, yet keep their pristine coloring there, unstained.

Could I exist, where Lillah mine were not, though all in Heaven, were its, that so cries out for her, and I were made an Emperor of Love immortal, but without her to kneel with, unto our God Most High?

Then lay he for a little time withal, sorrowful; brooding over what must be his lot, till telling himself how vain it were to wait, the angel then said unto him, well hast thou chosen, that hast with thee Love; whose beauteous raiment gleams along the night, and brings unto thee all enrapturing sense of what Our Heavenly Father meant for thee.

Thou with thy Lillah, shalt be where the sweetest waters flow, adown the shadowy crags that part them into twain, and send their streams on towards a lower Heaven, where will the angels taste, and find them that making their beings thrill, with wondrous ecstacy.

Near to the fountain's self, wilt thou and thine be, in seraphic calm; floating upon the atmosphere of dreams telling thee how its bliss transcends the joy making thy spirit yearn, ere earth had left it free to enter there, and quaff close to the heart of Him whose hand outstretched, allows the water of intensest life, to pour from it, upon the angel lips that drink, and drink again, forevermore; where every draught brings to them rapture, even angel language, telleth not.

In vision wonderful, Aladin looked upon the Crystal Sea, the Seven Golden Steps, leading up to the throne, where seated high, in state outrivaling that of any Pharaoh Egypt had produced, was Him that shone more brightly than the sun.

CHAPTER V

Sleep settled on his eyelids, and the hours ran on, until the need of nature was supplied; then the awakening was with gladness, at passing of the time, keeping his longing eyes, from Lillah's face.

Leaving the couch, he bounded up the stair,

fearful his footsteps might be heard without the wall, that hid him from the view of what he saw stretched dark along the sands; when carefully the opening he unclosed, and found three heads turned towards it, in the shade of his own pyramid.

Slowly the stone he closed, and noiselessly it settled into place, beneath the hand that trembled with his terror, lest 'gainst three, his strength prevail not, an' they trouble him.

Then with an ear placed close against the stone hot as the desert wind that blew around, heard he the three that lay without, with fierceness in their hearts, that foully sent most worthless lifeblood coursing through their veins, laugh fiendishly, at the unfoldment of a plan made theirs to hear, by Hashid El Raman.

Coolly he counted up the cost to him, of spearheads, sashes, and the added steed each was to have, when Lillah should be in his power at Ormond; where the tribe's vengeance, might not fall on him, as would it surely, should he bear her to his tent, among the homes where love for her and hers, would bring strong arms to fight in her defense.

Tribe's vengeance! then exclaimed one of the twain, for what would it be spent upon your head?

Aye, what indeed? struck in the other, and Aladin heard the words that answered them, with all the apprehension Hashid felt, knowing his lies were now believed no longer; and how the tribesmen met within the tent of Ibrahim, and wept with him, that Lillah was bereft, and would become a prey to El Raman, were he allowed to live, and have his will.

Need there is none, for me, he said, to make a home among the tents again! I will ride on with her to Ormond; an' live she till we reach its gates, or die! all will be well, for I have gold there in all plenteousness, that when I will to gather it, shall be with me; and the barbs, and wealth I leave behind, will be your booty, that have faithful been.

The increasing heat, brought cursings deep and wrathful, from the miscreant who watched the desert way, and with triumphant menace in his tone, at last cried, They are mine! and ere another morning scalds the flesh, here in the shadow of the pyramids, will I be with my plunder and secure.

Aladin's heart stood still with terror; and the thought of what awaited Lillah there, so weakened him, he leaned against the stone, then heard the words that gave him certain hope.

They were to offer the exhausted ones their arras; stretched as one then said, under the very apex of the tomb, making the monument unto the queen who lay and knew all he then felt; yet not with brain hid beneath cerements that held within them, all that once had been the fair, and fond, and radiant beauty, of Egyptian court.

It was agreed, among the three that rested still upon their pillows, while the panting steeds lay prone along the sands, and motionless, seemed scarce to breathe, as Lillah and her father drew more near, that the wide arras, tempering the light, should then be offered them.

Will I, said Hashid, find another spot, farther from here, where they will see me not; and there await the telling them by you, that tribesmen will most humbly strive to help, in their distress.

This pleased the two; and Aladin heard them say, One of the camels weakened is, and will not long be with the load, and keep his feet.

Ibrahim leads it, and The Patriarch even now, is not with his full consciousness, if I mistake not—then he left the one that staid behind, arranging all as would bring unto Lillah there, the comfort to be had, and hurrying forward, proffered he his aid.

The weary traveler loosened girth and strap, with pitying touch and gentle word, that drove the listening ear inside the pyramid, to press against the stone, until the surging blood his arteries held, made slower progress ~~to~~ an aching heart; and once again he heard the music of his Lillah's voice, in pain and fearfulness, telling her father to accept the word of their own tribesmen, and make progress to the awnings, that awaited them invitingly.

Under her veil, did Aladin in mind, behold his wife, and long to bring her freedom from its folds; but through the dreadful time till her release, must she endure the suffering it would bring, added to that already terrible.

His thoughts filled with her hatred strong,

the while he tarried until night should come, did Hashid tell himself he well might feel the scorching sunheat, and the desert sand, passing which, booty so rich, were gained.

In a few moments, Sleep made hers the form of Ibrahim, and Lillah held from off her fevered face, that keeping from it, even the desert wind; that swirled around the pyramids with action fierce, as 'twere determined to remove all things withstanding it.

Her slender form, saw Aladin, as opening but a little way the stone, he held within his eye what had for him, all that was to his famished heart, as entrance into Heaven.

Faintly he raised his voice, in song of tenderest love, unto the one, most dear, and Lillah, startled, half arose; then sank back on her pillow motionless, while listening to lines he sung, in place of those they often had in mingled tones of sweetness, sent unto the ears of Ibrahim, who thought how much more beautiful were they, than any other sound on earth to him.

Feel not a fear, nor show surprise; were words the soft voice bore unto her ear, for I

am in the pyramid behind thee, here, and to my arms, I bid thee try to come, when he, so tenderly beloved awakes, and thou shalt tell him that which must be done.

Found I, a way to enter in, where all the treasured luxuries of kings, abound; and in the coolness, deep within the stone that roofs beneath it, all that hidden is from outer sight, will Lillah and her father rest with me, ere Time has run his course another hour; I fondly hope, with thee, whose sighs I hear, and know thine anguished heart hath found relief.

The men, were then beyond their vision; and as Ibrahim stirred in his dreaming, softly to his side stole she that heard, and laying on his brow a gentle hand, as was her wont, when wakening him at morn, said in his ear, My Father, rouse thee quickly! though thou mak'st no sound!

Slowly did Ibrahim lift up his swollen eyes unto her face, and his dazed brain told how within her mind, was sense of what his, anxiously forebode.

Wilt thou arise, My Father? for within the

pyramid, is Aladin; with all in store needful for us with him, to pass away our lives!

Without show of haste or fear, he rose, and crossed the shade to look out on the way a caravan might come; then passed he to the other side, and straining his eyes East, instead of Westerly, they swept close home, as he returned and looked upon his child with veil and scarf thrown o'er the open door, beside which, Aladin with heart aflame, waited to draw them in.

Helped he at first, the father; much against the will of Ibrahim who felt his Lillah was the one to live, and though his heart might lie where roses bloomed above her mother dead, never, in rest and peace, as he had hoped, if it might tell him ere it went, that she with Aladin was once more blest, content, his life would end.

But with no words, and only anxious looks combined with force, did she impel him back of her; then stand with arms extended wide, that held far out, the drapery of her robe, while there adjusted she, the fastening of her veil.

At sudden hiss from Aladin, she turned as

sharply; sinking on her knees to meet his arms, that waited only to be with her form until upon the floor she safely stood, and tremblingly, the doorway watched, with Ibrahim.

Closed was the stone, with all celerity; and when the three had made their way adown the stair, and found the chamber great, awaiting them, mingled their arms and heads, and fell their tears of thankfulness and love, for moments, filled with joy unspeakable.

After refreshing both, with water cool, and lifting in his arms the precious load he bore within them, up the stair again, Aladin listened vainly, for the words telling them missed were they, by El Raman.

Sat they upon the glittering golden step, made for a queenly foot that never pressed thereon, and held sweet converse lovers only know, speaking unto the spirit's inmost ear.

Earth was forgot, and Heavenly Rapture came; laying soft hands in blessing on their heads, until once more did Aladin return unto the luxury that was below, where folded he within a fibrous mat studded with gems, the form of Ibrahim, that even in the desert, un-

derneath the stone rising above the room so broad and wide, might feel a chill creep o'er him, as he slept.

Lillah refused to leave him; and with all the longing in their hearts unsatisfied, drew he her form again within his arms, and finding cushioned seat made ready there for queen and king, that were to make it theirs, only in past belief, now held alone in memory, with all that was their own on earth, he sank into its recess, to await the passing time, when he again should stand beside the door.

Hurried the moments sweet, to make themselves part of the great eternity of years, that backward sweeps, within the corridor so vast, towards that enormous ocean, holding all.

Fearing to lose the morsel that would fall within his mouth when hearing Hashid's voice, again he gained the stone with Lillah; as in execration, wrathfully it rose above the other two, seeking to lessen that they so much feared.

Will any tell me where the bird has flown, that seemed so surely to be in my hand? he howled, flinging his blade against the stone, with force that shattered, and its pieces fell close to his feet below.

It was not I, who helped them get away, asserted first one, then the other man, with voice that trembled through dread fear of him, see where their camels lay! in the same wise as when they knelt at first! and tell us how the ones that rode them, went!

Pausing to think, their master failed to find an answer to the questioning; and wonderment replaced his wrath, as looking further then, he found their store of comforts as when left, in hope of reaching Ormond.

Truly a marvel has been wrought! he cried, and I am left disconsolate! but why were not you I hired, on guard to see the thing that happened! when I myself, could not?

With rage augmented by reflection, and a growing sense of what it meant, to Lillah lose, he tore from out his belt the knife he wore, and lunging at the nearest man, both seized and bound him; threatening that at night, they would, the horses take, leaving him there to die; while they explained at home, his death had come from sunheat—as indeed it might.

Upon the pillow where a head so beautiful

had been, they laid his down; filled with the venom pouring from his lips in words so vile and terrible, that those inside the wall, moved further down the stair, to hear no more.

Waiting not long, did Aladin tell Lillah, he would know the end; so they returned unto the room below, where pressing gently to her lips his own, he bade her there remain and rest, until once more he visited the door.

Maledictions rash and terrible! were Hashid El Raman, heaping on Heaven; and Aladin, whom Ibrahim had brought up from his youth, to fear and love The Lord, felt loth to stay inside the door, listening in silence, to the sickening sound.

The miscreant, till exhausted, ceased it not; then fell to pondering the mystery he might not solve.

At last, called he the others, giving them orders to unbind him, and feel he loosed them from the least suspicion; for had not all been of one company? and would they have found a hiding place for those he claimed, when all their time between the pyramids, had been with him, and none had slept, save Lillah and her sire?

Aladin's indignation at familiarity he must hear and leave unpunished, made him grind his teeth; and with clenched hands, he waited to hear more.

We will return, said Hashid, and tell none, what has come to pass, lest we be said to have made way with them.

Likewise the camels will we leave to die, or wander back at will, if they see fit, for all the tribe know Ibrahim's, and think me ready to make them mine own, if but I may.

Let us search carefully among the pyramids, when twilight cools the desert, so that blistering heat be less, that we have felt for naught, and I will well repay you for the work.

There are but four, of the great tombs here, and a survey of all their sides again, will not take long, as we will be with three at once, so if they pass around them to escape our sight, as may they have, this time, our meeting will be on the fourth and last, and still into my net will they be drawn.

The thought exhilerated him, and as the day wore on, he seemed regaining his accustomed tone; while Aladin from time to time,

would catch his voice, in further planning for the night return unto the tents, with all the story ready there to tell, that should exculpate them from seeming guilt.

We will aver, he said, that when we left the pyramids at night, for our return, they passed along their way, hoping to find the one in Ormond, that I think, has spirited them off; for in no other way, can I account for what has been; and Aladin believed angels were with him, and told him what to do, I know.

Awe, held all three then, in its power, and the men cried, Let us hasten, and rid the pyramids of what we have; the camels may remain, but all the food, we will take over to ourselves, and whatsoever may be with it, that will not be known at home.

Hashid agreed, and turning from the stone, did those outwitted, lade their steeds with what was then as much their own to claim, as might it be the spoil of any traveler along the way; save only Lillah's garments, and the raiment worn by Ibrahim.

These, to the robbers were of little worth, and danger clung to them; while all the prov-

ender was stored among their own—and filled the leathern wrappings fuller than they wished, when once again, the dwellers of the tents, did eye them o'er.

Thankfully then, did Aladin return, and Lillah met him on the stair, raising her face to his, in the dear way he knew so well at home; so lifting her within the arms cradling her fondly to his breast, he carried her inside the door below.

Seated upon a divan, rich with gold and jewels rare, around its edge, he marked her palor; and the circles dark, beneath the beauteous eyes, that overflowed with love.

All told him of her weakness; and he thought how both, might then have been among the blest, had he found not his way into security, or Hashid stretched his awnings in another place.

I am so happy Aladin! she said, so filled with all that brings me sweet content! will we be with the pyramids for aye, just you and me, My Husband, that our love may be to us e'en here, the blissful thing we crave?

We will until the camels need a thing we

cannot give them on the sands, he said, and then we may return at times, unto the treasures ours to gain; but life that brings no happiness to others who may need, is not for you and me, sweet Lillah, wife, and we must make selection from our store, after the day to come has rested you, and load, when night has cooled the air a little, that we may depart.

By morning, we shall reach the oasis, where all the caravans to Ormond bound, in search of market for their goods, make entrance; and will hope to meet one there, which we may join, and journey on.

The little Lillah questioned not; feeling that all her Aladin had said, was true, and wise, and good.

Her head sank lower on his breast, and thought he of the weary day behind; so laying her not down, he held the one so precious unto him that all his own long vigil was forgot, and rested, while she quietly slept on, in her accustomed place.

Deep was the slumber keeping her from him, until the night had wellnigh spent itself, while turned his thoughts to all that should be his

of strength, to meet the time when Ibrahim and he would lade the camels, and his blistered feet, must walk again, among the shifting sands.

Tenderly placed he then her form upon the soft divan, where all uncounted gems surrounded her, and thought amidst them all, none might compare in radiance, with his Love; so wearily he laid him down across the couch, and at her head, that he might hear the lightest word she spoke.

Hours ran their course, and for another day, almost, the three slept on, within the pyramid, when Ibrahim awoke; and for a moment, told himself it must be that for him, earth life had ended, and the one beyond, begun.

Not long lay he in doubtings, for the silver lamps lit the great room, till glistened it in beauty, like—he thought—the Heavenly land, of all luxuriance and delight; but his awakened senses, told him its sumptuousness, spoke of earthly ease, and wealth approaching boundlessness.

No sound fell on his ear, but looking towards the rich divan, a father, felt its jewels

were of little worth, to him that held so far above them, his two children, resting sweetly there, even as infant might, under the brooding care of mother love, telling its tenderness in noiseless whisper, and in lightest kiss.

Long lay he watching; thinking of a time when he must leave them in a heartless world, unaided by his length of years, and full acquaintance with the hearts of men.

He had trained both, in all the ways of truth, and love to them more needy than themselves, to find at last, that all his thought, had made their hearts as pure and mellow, yea, and strong too, as the light that fell from out the silver canopy, upon the gorgeous richness of that room.

What was to happen there, he knew not; questioning within his mind concerning it, while knowing all would be with Aladin, and safety then, he felt would be assured.

Through all his life, had he much longed for wealth; whereby he might relieve the suffering at the tents, where kindred hearts made music sad, unto the ears of Poverty.

Vain were his strong desires, and quietly

his life had closed round Lillah and her Aladin, until within his inmost heart, were they the central fire; from whence outshone the flame of love to others, warmed then by its glow.

That they must leave the pyramids, ere yet again the camels were athirst, he knew, or they might never carry them to be once more among their kind; and his heart sank, to think of taking Lillah back unto the tents, where waited for them only empty days, without the one they loved.

Until his name was freed from slanderous stain, as would it be in time, he told himself —remembering the few in tears with him, when talking of the grief they underwent, at cruel hands wreaking a vengeance on the innocent— they must remain in Ormond, once arrived.

There, as their Aladin should enter in, time after time, with camel loads of wealth, how would his name increase, among her citizens! and the rich merchant, would remain exalted where he dwelt.

Carefully measured he the values within sight, telling himself still further, how important must one be, within the thoughts of

men, when he returned from barter, bringing for their gold, the almost priceless furnishings, securely there awaiting them, across the desert sands.

Might they but find a mart for them in Egypt! was his wish, but he had been where men were with the same luxurious wares, and found them slow of sale; not for the lack of wealth, but for the reason, it was well supplied.

Unto the Government, had Hashid El Raman, complained of Aladin, and safety for him must be found at Ormond, for a time at least.

Lying no longer, he partook of grain, and drank from out the water-cask shown to him ere he slept; Then gathering together what would lade the camels on their way, he waited patiently, until a sleep that lasted late, had been laid by, and from it rested, came his children forth.

CHAPTER VI

Eager to reach the oasis next morn, soon were the packs arranged, that Lillah and her father rode at ease, while Aladin strode at the

side of her so dear, without a thought of weariness, until the morning light, red in the East, gave them to know they neared the gushing well.

Great was their joy, to find as towards the fount their weary camels drew, a caravan approaching; that would give to them the full protection of its numbers, as they forward pressed.

Welcomed were they, when at the well-side, all the tribe was met, feeling them then too many for attack, if on their way once more, and certain to defend themselves with ease, should it be made while resting, in the shade.

Smiles, and the asking for supplies, made all feel they would give what might be with their will; and as the earthen jars were filled with corn, from sacks borne by the caravan, Aladin with his father, counted the men with them, and found the number, to be twenty-nine.

They added unto that the others gave, a generous portion, from their slender store, and some felt wonder; seeing three so poor, and without beasts to carry all, that they should still afford so much.

But when was shown them on the finger white, of Ibrahim, the jeweled ring made theirs for extra camel, to be used at need, they looked at him in all his dignity, and dared not question, but made quick exchange.

The caravan had with it thirty men; joining each other on the morn before, when reaching yet another well, that was a long night's journey, nearer to their homes.

Thus were the three so needing help, to make themselves and loads secure within the place of refuge, then provided well, with all their prayers had asked, since the first start of Aladin, from Egypt.

Faith strengthened, mercy shown by Him on whom they leaned, happy were they when night brought them the hour in which the loads were once more fastened, where the burdened camels bore them with their masters, on the way.

Until the morn, at intervals, did Lillah wearily, behind her veil, wave a great fan, found in the pyramid, where all things women used, were most profuse.

From out the hallway there, had Aladin, re-

minded by the queen, brought off the swords, hung in their blaze of light; telling himself their rich encrusted hilts, might be replaced with plain ones, for his further use.

Among the lading were they stored, and in their leathern casings, seemed too lean to ride upon, and not create suspicion as to the nature of a sack so small, carried across the desert's fiery sands; so that among and with them, had he made rich tapestries to lie in such a wise, their packs seemed filled as all were, holding goods for marketing.

Gorgeous the trappings of the caravan, as on its shining spears full fell the glare of sun; telling to all that saw it enter the wide open gates, important merchants, showed how great their riches, and how much were they to be admired, for their many servants, and the brilliance of apparel worn by all.

Turbans, with diamond stars set in their folds, sent their bright glitter far along the way, while gauzy robes, were caught with crescent, wreath, and bar, of the same precious gem.

Drooping from staff held in the hand of

bright clad hireling, riding with the rest, were silken banners; telling whence they came, in golden letters, that were spokesmen for those owning the cavalcade, making the crowd to know their consequence.

Through the streets, yielding to them a narrow passage way, amid the throng that held itself in silence, did they pass; and Aladin's eyes told him the place where Lillah and her father might remain, while he was offering the goods for sale, that were with all the swords, among his load.

Doing as did the rest, he found himself beside another, where the buyers came; and giving into care his camels three, unto the officers that waited there, soon were the two most precious in his sight, surrounded with all comforts Ibrahim secured them in advance, with still another, of the many rings brought from the pyramid, left in the hand of him that kept the inn.

Plentiful were the guards about their door that night, ere Aladin departed for his work; and the man keeping travelers able to pay all his demand, held Lillah and her father, as his

care, so that anxiety made not its own, the heart of him whom Ibrahim had warned that he should go prepared, in mind and hand, for all that trade might bring to them, of ill.

Close at his side, hung the long leathern purse, filled to a third with water, into which was poured the rare and costly drug, destructive to the loathsome leprosy, that had befouled the city, till its ways were dreaded by the many passing a certain part, so that they held their breath, and hurried by.

There, drop the gold paid unto thee for that thou hast to sell; said Ibrahim, after receiving it within thy scarf, which thou upon a pack, above a camel's back wilt spread, and count all with the knife; telling to envious eyes the story plain, that all may read in thy strong arm, and in its blade, that will befriend thee well.

When thou shalt come again unto us here, a bath will be made ready for thy use, that will restore thee unto certainty of danger clinging to thy flesh, no more; while garments new, will I provide, against the hour of thy return.

Aladin thought of how the old, would serve men needing gold, with which to buy; and called he on the keeper of the inn, to have one there in readiness, to take away what he might want no more, cleansing it well, ere to the city's poor, it should be given.

Such were his wise precautions; and before the morn found him once more with those he loved, well had he learned the lesson, to beware how others came too near, or handled what he offered, telling of its texture, to the eye alone.

Only exposure of his store, as piece by piece, he brought it from the pack, was needed, to set all the buyers with the market place, beside themselves, almost, to make it theirs; and his words, Touch not, well heeded they.

Bidding against each other, were the men that had exchanged their camel loads for wealth, and through the city, soon the tidings ran, of what one garbed not as the merchants were, brought to their sight.

Eager the buying, fast the selling too; and when the morning lighted all the earth, wearied, and rich past all his dreaming, Aladin told

men waiting still, the night to come, would find him there as then.

Bringing unto the officers again, all that the camels bore, sought he ablution, Ibrahim advised, then found his Lillah and her father, waiting for him with all eagerness; bringing unto themselves the tired one, happy, and free from all trace of his poverty, while knowing well, the change new raiment wrought.

The Patriarch had sent for them that sold all this the most luxurious could command, and for the first time, Lillah beheld her Aladin, in princely garments clothed; making the grandeur she had seen in him, apparent unto all observant of the tall majestic form.

Kingliness clothed it, more completely even, than did the costly raiment it became; and as she looked upon her husband, entered her heart augmented sense, of how the fine head set upon a neck that told the way from mind so masterful, down to the heart so great, was short; and she had learned, 'twas often trodden by the feelings warm, that made for Aladin the place his in the past, till Hashid El Raman, had sought for her.

Account of all the night gave him to know, was then made theirs, while Lillah held his hand; and at its close, did Ibrahim say simply, My son will find the one thing now for me, my days have lacked, to fill them full of peace.

All his life long, since early youth, had strife been his, to meet old age, helpful to others; and ever, as the years increased for him, only might he lay by enough from an inheritance, to bring himself through all, without the fear steeping his heart in bitterness, that makes an old man wish himself asleep among his fathers, and brings to woman, stricken in years, the feeling all life holds, towards which her hopes may turn, is death.

The morning stars paled in the eastern sky, and when the sunbeams silvered o'er the leaves, without the window of the inn, and made a roadway to the city gates, through which they all must pass, unto the waste, the dread within their hearts was then renewed, of the long journey through the desert sands, back to the treasures hidden in their depths.

Long talked they of a plan to bring away all at one time, from mine of largess rich, made

theirs by Heaven; and were they faithless to the trust imposed, little would be their gratitude, and poor indeed their love, unto the One that gave back Aladin, unto himself and them, said Lillah brokenly, while The Patriarch raised his hands above their heads, and blessed them as they sat.

Rest made for them its pillow through the day, and when another evening, shadows fell, did Aladin again repair unto the mart, and sell that then remaining in the packs; save only, all the swords, kept for a time to come.

Then turning to the place where camels stood waiting for masters new, his, numbered he among them; setting their price so low, that one forthwith made purchase, and he left the spot.

Finding it early, and that time remained to look for what all longed to make their own, returned he to the inn, and once more left all garments worn among the horde around the market place, for cleansing; making sure 'twas done with use of what had Ibrahim prepared, as antidote unfailing, for disease.

This done, he hastened unto Lillah; leaving

her with all the purse contained, for Ibrahim to count and lay aside, except enough their future home, to buy.

Smiled she farewell, with his assurance given, that when return was made, it might be one that meant for her the one they coveted; where all their years should pass, mid scenes remunerating for past suffering, and bring them unto fullness of all joy.

He had met that night, a man, holding his house for sale at value more than others had wherewith to pay; but bidding him await his coming, met they outside the inn, and went where he had reared a palace grand, with taste most exquisite, and all appliances for comfort, though with money was he not, to further go.

Aladin wandered long, among its spacious rooms and lofty corridors, comparing them with what were in the pyramids; and thinking of the changes time had wrought within men's minds, enabling them to bring to view, imaginings.

Telling himself it well were worth the cost, exchange made he of gold, for all he found;

and when the daylight dispossessed the night, laid he his hand on Lillah's, with glad thought that hers would never find itself again at toil, displacing Nature's lines of beauty fine, by those an artisan malignant drew, defacing all, with coarse and tasteless brush.

My wife, he fondly uttered—and lingeringly his voice held to the words meaning so much to him—I bring to you, conveyance of our home; fresh from the hand of one just building it, whose wealth extended not unto its furnishing.

This was so needful, that without, he felt all useless; and I found him eager to sell, and get his money back, to let it lay at usury awhile, that he might build, and finish up the work.

The happy Lillah threw her arms about his neck, in that delight shared by The Patriarch; while Aladin within his mind, pictured its increase, when their eyes beheld the beauties ravishing his sight, as through the dwelling, its sad builder led the way, hiding his grief, lest he who noted it, at heart, believed him false.

Feeling how few would make his own once

more, the money poured out lavishly on every hand, he had then willing been, to ask still less; and the rare taste that had transformed its rooms into such beauty, spoke in thrilling tones unto attentive ears, through eyes surveying them contentedly.

Until within the pyramids he stood, and contemplated grandeur, such as only those of royal lineage might possess—unless like unto him had fallen it, he thought—his eyes had never rested on such sights.

Scarce were they with their evening meal no more, when he had sought the man whose was the inn protecting them from ill, and given him a generous sum, in excess of all terms; for he had been with care of two, most dear, and none had dared unasked, approach the doorway his to guard so well, with promise of accession large, to what should be just tribute unto him.

Pleased by the benefits derived from one so served, his help extended he, that servants might be found, sufficint for the night; agreeing to send others soon, well knowing how to render for their wage full value, and all trustworthy.

At early morning, stood without their door, women and men commingled, in the train of suppliants asking for places, under Aladin; and while selecting such as suited him, did then the wisdom deep, of Ibrahim, display itself.

To Lillah, gave he two, that mother were, and son active and strong, with manfulness portrayed in every move; three like to him, he chose for Aladin, having in mind, the care of house and grounds, while four, were bidden to make theirs the work, of tending on the camels; stabled at distance not too great, and one, was given charge of all, whose dignity and mind, made plain his right.

All these, showed kindliness in lineament, and heads were some, of families standing near, from which selected he the housemaids; so that soon, was every place well filled, at his command to give.

Then those that he had hired, were shown their duties; and each did vie with each, to render Aladin full worth of service, for most generous wage.

CHAPTER VII

With sunshine in the home, and warm hearts prompting all to bear their share, in making the great mansion as their master wished, its beauties grew on him, while unto Lillah and her sire, appealed they constantly.

Thankful were they, that here, had one been led by Art, to furnish forth a table, at which all might feast unstinted, and expand the soul.

The sweet days, unmolested by a fear of any that might bring to them alarm, held many thoughts how best to help the needy ones in Ormond, where heartlessness was with the rich, and leprosy among all classes counting money, or in other ways, bringing unto themselves the goods of men.

Ibrahim had hastened to make his, all that he might secure of that most costly drug, with which the raiment worn by him when coming from the pyramids, had been well filled; and store of it remained.

The Pharaohs had known its usefulness, and incense burned of it, filling their palaces and temples with perfume, and both tombs held provision of sweet odor, for long centuries; but

Aladin had long to wait, before another journey should be made, and fell disease walked unabashed, with rich and poor alike.

All entering their door, must first repair unto the bath below; where, in charge of a physician well knowing to its use, each found the treatment there accorded all, and safety was assured the domicile.

Thus was the home made free from every fear; but both the father and his son, felt with Lillah that the loathsome streets, kept closed against all barter, yet sending forth uncleanness, by that stealth unseen, tainting the purer air itself has not, be known no longer, as "The Leper's Hole."

To rid the city of this pestilence, had been the fervent wish of those that held in trust, the riches found by Aladin where the dead queen, then told to him her mind; from suffering ones they had been wrung, and unto such, again should they be given.

A fiat had gone forth, from those that stood high over all the city, in authority, that it no longer should endure the curse of such a scourge, now to be blotted out.

One only way, remained unto the leper, with the brand of Cain upon him, sending him forth to die, amid the wilderness, where Loneliness and Pain, would walk beside him, arm in arm, till Death met all the three; and scowling wrathfully into their faces, bid them drink his cup.

Pity too deep for words, impelled their minds to find a way, whereby the city might be saved its own, no lives be more with desolation, and the pestilence stayed.

Three days, had been allowed, before the sad and frightful cavalcade, should move along (at mid-day, when all others were within what shade might be their own) the streets of Ormond; passing through her gates for the last time, and seeing never more, their dear ones wait, e'en with averted head, their entrance where all once had been, with love and blessings rich; now theirs no more, that watching, would return inside the doors, and tell themselves, cheaply had all the awful work been done, to rid the city of its loathsomeness.

Deep was the mourning on the doorposts stained, deeper the grief within the homes

where Luxury, or grim Starvation, fed alike, on blood.

Hastened then Aladin, unto the ones holding authority of State, telling them to withdraw the edict, and unto him look for all repayment, if the city's woes remained; revealing then the plan, whereby were all infected ones, that held each other dear, to have new houses, and their wants provided for, by him, until their death; when burning all they left, might then there be increasing healthfulness.

The residue would still await their fate, in comfort; fed by charity attending to all needs, so that none remained for any, secretly to venture forth among the well, spreading disease.

Soldiers should keep strict watch along the line enclosing all, and be made ready for the awful task, by that he would supply in quantity sufficient, used most carefully; for it must last the lifetime through, of all that leprous were, with store beside.

Generously he made his offer, and with the powerful, sat some, whose hearts were wrung, by the necessity of sending forth their own loved ones to die; that had been bade farewell

in agony additional, because of all the suffering they must meet, upon the desert dread.

These, leapt at the offer; and the rest felt it magnanimous, past the mind to reach, while all did yield in thankfulness of heart; sending the heralds forth to spread the news, and tell whose hand had been that raised in their defence, as the mind guiding it, had felt the extradition, would have brought first, to many, death by some means, made theirs forestalling that awaiting them without the wall.

Fast were the houses built, that made the colony far to one side of that glad city on the oasis, and as the families so much with leprosy, that none were free from its vile clutch appalling, plead to be removed, and leave their filth behind them for the flames, at early morn were they within the van drawn by the horses white, significant of their disease that rode, so that men fled on every hand; as it passed on.

Not many weeks went by, ere all had been erased from off the earth, bearing contamination to the air floating above the spot, like bird of evil omen, to people of that city; now with appliances for burning every fume that

should arise from the enclosure, where within walls of hollow tile, with strong draught from below, to narrowing top, were purified the gasses that escaped.

A few were found, within the leper homes, not yet with the disease; these were removed unto a certain place where Ibrahim made all his care, and unless obedient in the use of that most precious drug he gave, soon were they warned by the authorities, that further dalliance, meant Saharah's sands.

Impending horror such as that, brought all to doing everything he asked; and ere many months had joined the cavalcade moving along the avenue of Time, fast to his funeral, at close of year, such change was wrought within the place repellant hitherto to all that passed, and with averted head and nostrils held, made haste to flee the spot, so like a dank morass, in stagnancy, that the whole city, rang with praises of The Patriarch, uniting him in gratitude, unto the one that had brought then to Ormond, health and cleanliness.

Provision had been made within the great enclosure of the leper homes, for laying them

that died, upon a pyre fed by the oil provided for that use, by Aladin; consuming all reminding those still left, of one glad to escape the trammels of the flesh, mid comforts, and the kindnesses of friends.

So it became safe at last, that men should walk the long forsaken streets; and unless caravans entered the gates with goods, (and their attendant evils,) the purity of homes and walls, remained inviolate from leprosy.

CHAPTER VIII

When those that bought, had sold and bought again, Aladin's riches in the market place, and he had given time for most of them, to wish for more, another caravan did he prepare, the desert sands to tread, unto the waiting pyramid afar; that emptied of its stores, then might it lie in silence, and within the memory alone; no more to bring them pain.

With all that might make less, the terrors of the way, had Aladin near wrought a miracle, for the conveyancing of those he loved, with all protecting them, through the hot blast so like an oven's breath, even at midnight;

when the star-hung sky, was garlanded with lamps, that seemed to sway before the blinded vision, as their ropes of light, emblazoning all heaven, bedazzled it.

He had, with plenteous fans, surrounded all the packs upon the camels' backs, bearing his family and servants, seated at their ease on cushions that were filled with straw; and bringing unto all that looked thereon, belief the merchant carried from the city, what would he exchange for value, brought again within its walls.

Moved the fans, with each advancing foot of camel in the line, as would they still, where all was waste, and all was fearful to their minds, that followed then the lead of Ibrahim, as through the crowded street he led them on.

Thirty strong men, were with the caravan, more than himself and Aladin; while gleaming in the moonlight, every sword, sparkled with gems a king might hold, and feel himself more wonderful, therefor.

Pride made the men that bore them, tell the throng that stood and feasted well their eyes, upon the flashing lights that played about the

heads, and circled hands holding them poised in air, as if in readiness for battle imminent, how great the wealth of Aladin, and how much more was his than scimetar and spear, in that far country, almost without price.

Naught was forgot, and naught might added be, to bring unto them comfort, and remove the dire dread of a journey that the gold of Aladin, persuaded them to make.

Changed was the feeling they experienced, when in the desert with its burning sands, that underneath their camels' hoofs, was pressed so patiently, they found the great fans, formed by thought, ere yet their master brought them into light, made all with far less suffering, on the way.

A caravan approached; and while some distance kept from others' sight, their comforts, laid along the camels' backs, on through the heat, rode they without them, unquestioned as all wished; when hidden were the sword hilts and the spears, that glittered through the night, needless for peaceful travelers, to keep in sight.

None stopped for interchange of words,

bringing to them delay upon their course, for every moment's hindrance, in that air, increased the awful fear each man then felt, of leaving on the sands his whitening bones, to mark the way he went.

When morning rose, fresh from her saffron bed within the East, it found them at the well, and shades of green; for among all that stood within the mart, had Aladin made his, the finest beasts, and strength was theirs, that so prevailed o'er space and time, that those borne by them to the oasis, entered the verdant spot, feeling the earliness of day was theirs.

Unladen were the camels, and a circle made of all the packs, within which, Lillah and her father, slept away the hours, that kept them from the pathless waste again; while thickly round them, gathered the ones protecting fans and all, from prying eyes that vainly strove to look beneath the arras, shading that within.

Aladin felt that he must watch and wait, with servants bearing in their hands thick stocks, carrying fear with them, to eyes that saw the wondrous weapons, bought at price that few afforded, in that most distressful

clime, where wood was prized for shade, far more than gold; much as might be that precious metal sought, by those who came to Ormond, hoping to find it, and repay themselves for suffering.

With sword and spear beside them, the long hours wore away, and brought the evening star, out from its depths of blue, to point the way trod by a climbing moon, that palely shone in weariness, above the shining sand looked down upon by her, for all the centuries since man first saw her rising to his view in skies afar, and asked himself with wonder, how came she.

Then once again the beasts were with the loads, and taking from their coverings the swords, did all the servants mount and follow on, behind the ones that led the caravan; leaving to tell each other, those who staid, and lived by pillaging the merchant bands not larger than they might encompass and destroy, that when on its return, with all the sacks filled full of wealth they prized far more than that contained within them then, Ormond would not be with it, e'er again.

CHAPTER IX

Not yet had been begun the sickening "Dead March" of a cruel sun, across the sands, when Aladin drew from the cavalcade, and lifting up his arm, said in a loud voice, Wait!

Then standing, as all passed, he calmly said, leave here thy sword and spear, that with the stock, thou holdest in thine hand, will be my care.

Each did as told; for all felt he must be with their defence, and surely would empower them to fight, as had they been equipped upon the start.

Quietly he bent himself unto the last hard task remaining his to do, before the life held in a human body, should escape.

Surely will I be with thee, Aladin, a soft voice said, and Lillah sprang from off her camel's back, while smiling fondly, Aladin did feel her little hands had lightened all the load.

In leathern skins he bound the weapons rich, laying them with the loads borne by the camels three, that carried Lillah, between Ibrahim and him, on towards the pyramids.

There told he all awaiting night again, ~~not~~ that

far away were fertile fields and tents; with men that held in hand, as he believed, the costly drug he needed sore at Ormond, for its safety from the scourge.

Here at the pyramids will we await the time when thou wilt have made thine, all this will buy; he said, as handing each a purse, was added, see to it, which can gain the most, for me and home.

Then did they all depart; and when secure from sight of any, that might mark their entrance to the tomb, no time they lost, in making theirs again, the cool familiar spot.

Soon were they lost to every troubled thought; having no need to labor, or feel aught save rest they found, where had before approached them, certain peace; until the hours ran on to half a score.

At that time, in his inner ear, did Aladin again hear words, commanding him to rise, and seek the door; lest men return, and find the secret stone.

He staid for nothing more; remembering an injunction given by the queen, that when a thing was told him then to do, all haste should

be observed, in finding way unto obedience.

Up the wide stair he sped, and saw the sand they had displaced, revealed a hiding place, he fain would keep known only to those dear to him; so all was made to look as when they had begun trying to reach the stone, that tallied with his memory.

This done, again he made the couch his own, and slept; not hearing voices deep and low, fall on the night outside the pyramid, until again the queen's, broke on his ear.

Get thee up to the door, and listen close to that thine ear shall tell thee, has to do with what will be the future conduct thine, among the ones that serve thee for thy gold.

Some, am I sure do not; said Aladin, as with all haste he laid again his ear unto the stone, and found as in times past, it held not from him, voices from without, telling what he had thought might be with those from whom he took the jewelled scimetars and glittering spears, that laid within the tomb, not as doth lie there weak mortality, awaiting only that it meets therein, but to fulfill a mission glorious, in time to come.

The words of a new hireling, met his ear, telling the feeling all might have, that made return unto the pyramids, ere he expected them.

"Amazed am I, with all the rest, that such a thing could be, and yet they live! nothing could come of them, here in this sand, that sweeps along between the old high tombs, sealed all so tightly, none have found a way to get inside of one, by any means known unto man that lives, and I am one to hold your ears in deep attentiveness, to hear me tell how I, explain the wonder of it all."

Exert yourself Mohammed, answered he whom Aladin knew well to be Mustapha, wisest of them all that came to serve, when first he opened up the palace halls, and made him overseer, to the rest, Let not thy voice give unto thee repose.

The sand is cool, disport thyself; and leave no word unsaid, that giveth thee to hear thine own most wondrous tones tell unto thee, what we will sleep on, and feel all is well.

Thou art with one thing, known for centuries; and when thou feelest thou hast fortified thyself, with telling it to us, that know its

import great, believe we all will be with one accord, as ignorant as now, to what become if him who bade us serve him, and has shown every one he hired, how great a soul is he.

The foolish one made not much more reply, than to adjure them all to be with him, in looking well around the pyramids, in hopes of finding that for which they came; and be with wealth unstinted, after that.

With blood upon our heads! cried one that then did he within the wall, know to be with Mustapha, in his faithfulness, and had you strove to make his life your own, his body-guard, had been the men feeling that to him, owed they all happiness their poor unfortunates in leprosy, may have, while on the earth.

Then spake again the elder man, with voice that shook like winter's leaf in blast; For what came he with us across the waste, in terror of his life, and her's he loves? with the old father too! whom all at Ormond know, is worth a thousand lives, of such as you!

Was it to gain more wealth unto himself, when he had that unbounded, yet, and needed nothing he might not supply, in grandeur of munificence?

Was it not to provide against the day, when leprous men and women should need care, after his store had been exhausted there, and none might feed or clothe them, after that?

Think how thine own, might be turned out, in this most fiery heat, to lay them down and die! and ask thyself how came'st thou, to be with food and shelter, care, and that protecting thee from every ill, when midst thy low surroundings, Ibrahim saw, and found for thee a place among the rest, at the great mansion, all are proud to claim as their abode.

Be with thyself a little time! and see how all about thee, tells thy meanness! and the degradation of a mind so sunk in slime, that leprosy has not in all its vileness, that which may compare with it, for loathsomeness.

Aye, draw thy sword! the very one thy shameless heart did prompt thine hand to steal; when for its blade, and seven more as keen, thou and thy fellows, made thine own, his gold! and let them meet mine, and a score as well! that will be broken in defence of him, our Lord, ere thine shall come anear that heart of his, more grand and great, than any other man's, that mind may know!

Wilt thou be with thy kind, and battle give, here in the wilderness, where jackals will tear from thy bones the worthless flesh?

I'll make thee seek for wealth! in which to clothe the thing hiding itself from eyes that see thee now, as thou'lt appear, when from the body thou shalt step, in all thy nakedness, and shivering stand, the wretch thou surely art, before the angels, come to meet thy soul!

Sheathe not thy sword, for all with me, are here to tell thee by the ones we hold, our longing to let out thy blood on desert sands, to purify of black ingratitude, thy heart; when it no more shall hold, the vintage foul.

Ha! turn'st thou to another tomb, and tellest thou me, no longer is the wish with thee to battle give, here in the desert, unto us that stand and order thee to eat thy words? for all we will return of thee to him we serve, and love so well, will be thy robe! to tell how sword-thrusts, sent from earth to hell, a traitor! such as thou!

I do recant! came in a shriek that rang throughout the pyramid, till Lillah heard, and Ibrahim leaped up from out his sleep grasp-

ing a sword; that then he laid back with the rest, when Aladin assured him, all was well, and they might call the men, to help them lade the camels from their stores.

Questioned him not; The Patriarch that knew his wisdom, and again did Aladin betake himself unto the opening, where upon the ground stood all his servants, in combative mood, save only eight.

Swinging wide the door, their master suddenly appeared to them; as standing on the stairway, rang his clear, kind voice, within the ears of them well satisfied that he must know, some were but traitors to his family.

One, hid his face, and lay along the sand, almost with wish that it might cover him in death; as quiet eyes that from their depths serene, made him to know how far from confidence, was now the man plotting the life of one so powerful.

Will those revealing by their words and acts, staunch loyalty and love, to me and mine, be with me in the pyramid awhile? he asked, and smiled upon Mustapha and his friends.

Hastened they towards him, with their unsheathed swords.

Their Master held a hand in warning high.

Rang his voice sharply, as a clarion note, and at its tone, men started in alarm; for gentleness had been the rule of life with him, and all had felt he might lack courage, since no sound of blustering, had ever struck upon the ears of those that heard him speak, in manner that exceeded in authority, all any had experienced before.

Get thee around the miscreants who desired my life! he sternly cried, and stood without the door, to see it done.

Wheeling in line, the faithful servants did surround the rest, with their uplifted swords, and force of numbers, overpowered them.

Disarm and bind them, with the thongs at hand!

Then all was done as he had ordered it; and into the cool tomb were carried all the eight, that held sedition in their hearts, and terror, in their eyes.

Fierce were the looks cast on them, by the men telling by every glance, how deeply ran the current of their hate.

Tied were they all, unto the stone holding

above it, the sarcophagus of her that heard no sound, from mouths enstopped by that which did so fill each one, the tongue moved not within.

Leaving on guard a servant then, did Aladin command the rest to follow him adown the stair.

Upon their vision, broke the mellow light radiating from lamps that stood about, and threw their gleam on all the beauties, of that splendid room.

Aghast with wonder; stood the ones who saw, and with one voice, declared no human thought would reach unto conception of such sights, as were depicted on the walls around, studded with gems, outrivaling the ones seen —it might be—in dreams of grandeur, far outstripping all the power of man, to bring unto himself.

Aladin then directed all, with eye upon them in his kindly way, while Ibrahim and Lillah, felt the need of theirs; where all was scattered not, as when at first they found it, but the jewels rare, threaded among the tapestries, were strung with that no knife might quickly

cut, preserved within the pyramid, revealing art in more forms still, a later age has lost.

Fast went the work, and when the room had been divested of the hangings most superb, there came a time to rest, and eat the food waiting within the bins and flagons, that were with the place; with some from Ormond, which in sweetness, made the rest, seem little worth.

When all had finished, and the cooling drink been quaffed, from bottles filled for every one, that then refreshed and strengthened, rose from where he sat, Aladin made a few, the guard to bear unto the malefactors, corn and drink.

These, hesitated not, to tell of what had been their treat additional; and when the others heard, rage, made them more revengeful than before.

A scheme to wreck the caravan, was with the mind of each, and ere the ones that did replace the gags were with them, every one, said, at the oasis, they would not be as then, but fiercely fight; when all the Bedouins there, should know the worth of what the camels bore.

Contempt was thrown on them by old Mustapha then, and those that bore him company, laughed loud in scorn.

Doubtless the tribe will listen to thy tongue, when we unbind it, and give unto thee an opportunity to fill the air with words as empty of result, as were the ones thou spak'st outside this tomb, he said unto their leader, with a sneer.

No time was given, to make the foul reply that rose to lips accustomed to bring forth the vileness lying in the heart beneath; and once again descending to the work, found they the rest within the hallway, where now the swords were hanging in remembrance, of the man who stood and watched, recalling all the servants' eyes saw not.

Roll after roll, was laid where Ibrahim with Lillah did remain; until the ceiling had been made to look as are found ceilings, in the pyramids today.

Then opening the door into the room beyond, was Aladin made once again to hear the sounds of wonder, rolling from the tongues of them that stood and looked at values, not computed by the numerals they knew.

Busied were all, until the grandeur lay beside the rolls awaiting leathern skins, beneath the eyes of those that watched them well; then were the packs filled with them, and anon, with camels fed, and all the lading done, was the long caravan, in waiting at the door.

The mellow moonbeams fell along the sand, and stole among the pyramids at will; while all the captives were made those to feel that guarded still, would be their journeying.

Placed between two, that loyal were, conviction came at last, that only as had been the past for them, were they to find the future; and they sat their beasts in deep dejection, feeling all was lost.

Great indignation, held against them, those that did the work for which all had been hired; though lifting gems, and values unsurpassed, weight had been felt, that then had been the same, were it alone of rock, that strewed the ground.

Fell on the heated air, sternly the word of Aladin; If any free himself from out the thong binding him to his camel, he shall be thrust through by a spear, from him that rides behind.

None tried it; and the cavalcade moved not, till Ibrahim with Lillah, came without the door, and tenderly was lifted to her place, the little form that Aladin so loved.

For the last time, the three with hearts that felt the long march taking them to happiness, and all the faithful ones to comfort, meant with every step, the nearing unto death, of them that rode in bonds, were grateful for releasement from the pyramids; and when the word was given by Ibrahim, to move on, and be wary, soon did the fans send waves of cooler air along the line, and make the past that tortured them, in part, forgot.

With old Mustapha riding in the rear, while Aladin beside his Lillah sat, as had he done before, did Ibrahim their course steer by the stars, that then threw twinkling glances roguishly upon them, meeting surly looks from those thinking alone, how short the way of life, and how improvident, had been they, while the past lay clear before them, that they might have filled with lines that shone.

Lines telling to their Maker, one dear tale of loving thought for man; and in justice, mak-

ing all subserve to that High Heaven would ask, of those who tried to think on every side, and do the thing, bringing to others, weel.

Moonlight lay glitteringly on the desert way, with all the feeling, and no more, that had been with it through the dreary years, ere yet kings built unto themselves the pyramids; dismantled now, their riches scattered, and the howling winds alone, wheeling for cycles round them; all unmarked, in these days, save by sightseer, straying with the throng, where money may be left as on it goes, to find the other wonders making up the seven.

Nearer and nearer, to the oasis among the palm trees and the Bedouins, bore on the caravan; and when the distant glow in eastern heavens, gave warning of another evil day, there neared it from the crossway, one as long.

Waiting without the verge where shade appeared, until the strangers all, had entered there, found they the well, together; in such force, as to intimidate the band that hopes had held of seizing on their riches, when return was made, to Ormond.

CHAPTER X

When Hashid El Raman had found his tent, as bare of what he wished to add unto its stores, as when he rode away in search of Lillah, at the Pyramids, he plundered and killed travelers, as in days before; until exhausting all the tributary country, came the time about, that he could ride no more in search of prey, and find it as had he, within the leagues covered by him in years agone.

Hence, came about the welding of his horde, to that infesting all the desert round the oasis, that lay a short night's ride from Ormond.

Led by two chieftains, did the double band of miscreants quarrel among themselves, for booty once the spoil of one; that now resentfully endured the threats of Hashid and his men, because forsooth, they felt at times, their added force would make them all, the owners of great wealth.

Hashid had moved his tent, and men with wives and families, from Egypt's land of plenty—for the honest hand that toiled—unto the oasis, where all was free then, to his predatory band.

He had seen, as they approached, the laden caravans that met outside; and told the robber chieftain, whom he felt would be known 'mongst travelers, to welcome them in, and he would remain hid, until the night, saw them make ready to depart.

Thinking themselves secure, with many spears, little precaution would they take; and the bands be upon them, ere equipment could be theirs, for making sure resistance to the horde.

Thus were the caravans in ignorance of all that menaced them; and Aladin laid down in peace that day, leaving his trusted men to guard the packs and prisoners, while he slept.

Wearied with what had gone before, and feeling old Mustapha was in charge, while all would be with the two caravans, he laid aside all fear, and slumbered on.

Sudden and sharp, fell on his inner ear, the well remembered voice! in stronger tone than in the pyramid, and there was need.

Haste thee! Get to thy feet and arm thy men! Hashid El Raman is with the robbers, make outcry! and be with thy Lillah and her

sire, within the circle where thou art, there to direct the fight!

Leaping to his feet, did Aladin call loudly, Arm Thee! Lose not a moment's time! The Bedouins are upon us, and my servants will make half the circle, then filled with all the rest!

Every man among both trains, awoke to need! and springing from the ground, seized spear, and sword, and shield! while at the side of each possessing it, hung the thick stock, light, strong, and full of terror for the foe.

Seeing them with such weapon, the others, had throughout the morning hours, wished they might have the same; and Aladin had told the owners of the caravans, where to procure them, when at Ormond, they arrived.

Now, ordered he his men to alternate, each and each, with one not armed as well; while beasts were hurried into place, and some held packs thrown over them in haste, thickening the wall, and those to die next day at sunset, were made to sit the camels here and there, affording more protection to the one behind.

These places were assigned to old Mustapha,

and the men in age with him most near, in either caravan; while with bound hands and feet, and gags in mouths, helpless, the murderers, to aid the horde, or hinder the defence.

Time was there not, for all the camels to be with their packs, but the criminals were with some that lacked; and feeling they would wanted be, to join the bands, and only by mistake, their lives let out, had they been seated where they faced the foe.

A loud expected shout, bore out the words of Aladin, as rushing from all sides at once, the enemy closed round the camel ring, and terrorized it not as it had thought.

Deliver up thy stores! cried Hashid El Raman, or by the time it takes to count an hour, the blood of every man within the ring, so close with camels that I claim, will wet the ground he lays on, for a foot.

I see their leader, standing at the side of one that slipped from out my hand when at the pyramids! as I believe, and think now, he that holds her with a feeling she is safer there with him, than on the desert, in the open sand, will find my power as great, within the oasis!

Thy vile assertions will be shown unto the men with thee on either side, as lies! retorted Aladin.

Thou did'st force me to the desert heat, in hope of finding life at Ormond, that must have left me, had I not made ingress to the pyramid; where soon thy hirelings came, to overtake and kill, if possible, the man thou hatest, since he bore the wife so precious in his sight, from out her father's tent, most willingly, unto his own.

I waited for her there in secrecy, to draw within its cool inviting shade, mid many luxuries, the weary one so near her death; and thou, with hirelings tarrying for the night to bring earth coolness, in which effort might be made, kept from her sight, around a pyramid, and sent thy messengers, to proffer awnings, as if theirs, who were her tribesmen; when her father offered them his hand, in token of the gratitude they felt.

Those arras, covered o'er the stone through which I passed, and found security, with boundless wealth, awaiting me; and when my wife, with Ibrahim her father, came to rest, and almost die, within the shadow of the tomb

holding their heart's wealth, with uncounted gold, made I my voice steal on the ear so near me, and arranged to draw them soon within.

There, heard I thy foul curses, and made all my thought, preventing a belaying of thy mouth; by hand now ready to avenge my wrongs, upon thy shameless head.

Yield we not an iota, unto thee! and when in dust thou lyest low, and all the countryside is rid of thee, will I be with my family in Ormond, her wealthiest citizen! and blest with that respect, given unto one who brought her streets freedom from leprosy, and keeps her poor and sick ones, in all comfort till they die.

A howl of wrath, sent Hashid, through his teeth, and hurled his javelin at Aladin; that fell short, and hid its head within the body bare, of one that sat a camel then, no more.

Shields raised the circle, as with war cry loud, the Bedouins tore away the sashes worn, that might impede them in the fray, and casting each his spear, that rattled then against a buckram shield, staying its force, sprang after it, with mighty bounds that cleared the camels' backs, and hand to hand there struggled, man to man.

Grappled the servants not! their swords they drew, and stroke on stroke, laid on the entering ones that made return with theirs, in all the fierceness that the lust for gold impelled; and when the stocks were raised, within the hands so strong, that fought for life, the blows resounded on heads then that fell, and all unconscious of their exit from a world to them, only a place for rapine, and the wealth made theirs by crime, the robbers' minds, made entrance to eternity.

Inside the lesser ring formed by the packs, with Lillah close beside him, as he stood and cried encouragement to them that strove, stood him directing all.

Strength, met its mate! and lustily the men that struggled with contesting might, held to their ground with stubborn will unyielding, battling to the death.

Lips drawn across set teeth, gleaming in Arab whiteness, and tigerish fierceness, from stiff beards, that made for them an ambush, back of which the whistling breath told of its strong escapement from the breast where Hate, expelling it, with force, drove the blue steel through one that stood before.

Careful to call, in terms that would not tell to Lillah what he saw, the gentle heart of a strong man that never had till then, beheld affray, stood still with horror at brief intervals, to see the carnage; as it swept the ring clear at last, of all save El Raman, and the few followers left, of his confederate.

Up to that time, these had not paused to see the fell disaster to their force; that had unwittingly attacked an enemy, better prepared to meet it, than had been supposed.

One look they gave around the bloody place, like shambles, with its row of mutilated trunks, telling the hour that Hashid El Raman had set for the extinction of the van, had counted been, by strokes that told a story horrible, to ears and eyes alike.

Far on the outskirts, saw they women that had stood beyond the range of spears, and heard their wailings; as no more appeared head after head, above the parapet of camel backs.

Thought told their shuddering hearts, that nothing more remained for them, but leap the wall and flee into the desert, or make attempt to hide within the oasis, until the caravan should leave the well.

Further than that, they felt not anything; and all the future held for them on earth, was soon made known.

Plunged headlong all, across the camels' backs, and running at full speed towards their tents, with thought of barbs awaiting there, javelins followed, showered fast upon them, and they fell; ere meeting trembling wives and families.

The dart Mustapha sent, pierced the black heart of him that loathingly he had beheld, and felt his arm might be the one at last, to lay him low in death.

Not one, of all the Bedouins that so long had terrorized the travelers, across Saharah's sands, remained to feel his solitude, and think how rash had been the venture, costing all the rest.

Words faintly outlining, the awful truth remaining back of them; for women with their little ones, were there left destitute and helpless, with the few remaining loaves and little corn, between them and starvation.

The ring of camels was removed at once; while Lillah, pressed her veil close to wild eyes, and Aladin spoke gentlest words to her in lov-

ing tone, that told not of the tumult in his soul.

Leading the beast she rode, did Ibrahim, whose hand had held the weapons of defense, among the servants so determined that no injury be his, conduct them both unto the others; where the soft green of the oasis, held shrieking women, that then grew silent, fearing death might overtake them, ere it must.

There, while the bloody battle-ground remained as when 'twas left, did Ibrahim lift up his hand, and say in earnest tone, Be with me now in prayer.

All heads were bent, and silently the circle looked upon the ground, while he upraised his voice and face to Heaven, and in thanksgiving, made their feelings known, that looked for happiness.

Our Heavenly Father, wilt Thou take, from us, the thanks our hearts hold unto Thee, with offerings deep, of praise.

Thou knowest the Bedouin bands have slain and robbed all travelers, that passed along the way in peaceable intent, for many years; save only such as might by numbers make afraid, the force of Rapine.

Thou alone, art with a knowledge, of the desolate hearts and devastated homes, within our land, made so, by this same horde, that yon lies dead.

Free to the caravans, shall now the desert be, and with the fall of husbands, will their families be cared for, as shall bring peace unto their hearts.

Be Thou our rearward.

Comfort all that weep, and bring us safely to the place, where homes will be with them, deserving not their death.

Great God of all, wilt thou be with the murderous hearts, that lay within the bodies spared by those, wishing for further help in their maraudings.

Bear thou in upon their minds, the awful doom awaiting them, at hand of executioner.

Bring them to think of what hell means, for everlasting suffering; and make them long for that repentance, that will mean release from pangs more terrible, than any earth may know.

May they hear my words and profit by them! in a way leading them to feel their sin, against the leprous ones in Ormond, unto whom

we carry the relief that but for us, and with our lives and wealth, might not be theirs until upon the desert must they lie; a menace unto all that might pass by, and sowing in the winds, their pestilence, to scatter it abroad upon the earth.

When they shall be with mercy in their hearts, for those so wronged, and feel the need of pardon, for their crime attempted against us, who will be with their sentence, as those they strove to bring unto sedition, against them shall inveigh, and then shall cry upon thee from their hearts, and in The Mind, of, The Holy Spirit, ask Thee to forgive, and show them mercy, they will know that peace, enabling them to face the future, and feel their punishment will be meted out, in fear of further sinning from them, 'gainst mankind.

I bow within the Mind of one, my Guardian Angel that has been, ere first I drew my breath mid earthly woes; and who exists with thee, in Heaven above, yet still controls my thoughts; surrounding me so fully, with that Mind, loaned me to pray within, and to the Presence there, unspeakable and formless, in

His power and grace, that I ask all petitioned for, here or at any time, as now, in The Mind; of, The Holy Spirit.

Lifting his head, the reverent awe of listening men, showed in set faces; and the surly looks of the condemned, were here and there made less, to the observant eye, so Aladin ordained their mouths be freed from bandages, keeping from speech, them that now had use for none.

Lie still and rest within the shade till night; commanded he still further, when all trace of the fight will be removed, and on the march, will we again be, with the women and their little ones, that will make ready all they can remove on back of horse, and join our caravan, feeling that now, in safety may it ride.

They heard his words, and tears told of their grief, and mingled gladness, all might eat and live; with care that would extend to time ahead, when children should be able to maintain the mothers, thanking then the ones that saved them from starvation and its terrors, in their homes.

The Full Moon rose, surrounded by the stars

that followed after, though with slower step, as looking backwards o'er the shining sands, she felt they held her in their loving thoughts; and Ibrahim was with the men that found how women had sought out the one most dear to each, and made all, ready for the burial.

None came anear, to trouble them with wails, while their hard task, with most unwilling hands and thankful hearts, they did pursue; thinking the malefactors might assist in laying side by side the dead, within the grave deep as the oasis would them allow, before the tide of swallowing sand flowed in, to ruin all their work.

Scant time was there to rest, when all was done, if Ormond should be reached another morn, and with all haste, refreshment then was theirs, and camels, that had fed while there, were once more laden with the prisoners and packs from off the ground, where all had lain with Aladin to watch them, standing beside his wife, who felt her cup of blessings then ran o'er.

Seated between their guards. and on the way towards the oasis, the prisoners attempted

not to tell resentment, or to cast reproach; feeling the few short hours before them, must be given to thought.

Likewise their captors, having heard the prayer of Ibrahim, that told of punishment awaiting them where the worm dieth not, that gnaweth at the heart, and maketh ravage of all happiness forevermore—as men have thought "Eternity" to mean—sat speechless; while did Ibrahim again ride on in front, with Aladin beside his Lillah, and Mustapha in the rear.

Proud was he to be entrusted with that place, important to the ones he served so well; and as the patient camels plodded on, felt he, with some beside, that every step brought nearer to them, Home.

Home where the heart is; and the mind of man hath ever turned towards its calm, sweet joys, with feelings tend'rest, in the ones that having tried the world, and found it wanting in sincertiy, and in that flawless love, surroundng those that enter at the door, closing out strife, find there their rest.

Those that were bound, partook not, with the rest that followed Ibrahim, of sweetest

bread, made by the hand of Love, and stored within the mind; but felt that every passing wind, bore from them fragments of their lives.

Each man among them, thought on all his past; and how his whole life. had been given to Self, demanding all within his mind to do, as willing sacrifice, at that vile shrine.

Hopes crushed, that had twined round him as a child, making a mother look towards the years when he should be her stay and comforter, turn sadly towards the past, and hold within the walls of memory, what would bring her heart to feel there would be hers, no other place where Love might fold its wings in happiness, thinking of what the child had been, ere Time had led his steps downward to hell.

That his own Will, had welcomed in the thoughts that made him wish for low companionship, denied he not; and with the terror of a death, so near it looked him fiercely in the face, he shuddered at the sight that lay beyond.

Had he but turned to higher, better things, when life and leisure for them, were his own, how different all might now have been with

one arrived at the climacteric. that would be with him, till he felt the fiery eyes of demons, piercing his soul, and heard their howls of triumph, as in hell he stood, and trembled with the anguish of despair.

Then turned his mind, unto the prayer of Ibrahim for him; and as the leagues were passed, deep was the earnestness within his heart, and humble was his attitude of soul; as low upon the ground, his guardian angel spread before his sight, prostrate, he cried aloud in tears to God, to pardon all his sin. and save his soul from devils, at the last.

The peace of that forgiveness needed so, was with the heart that turned to face his doom, with all the tumult of his spirit hushed; as dimmed the things of earth, before his sight, and humbly hoped he for a place where all forgiven minds, may earn the privilege extended them in mercy, that conforms unto the law of Him rejecting not, the offering of a contrite heart.

Morning again broke o'er Saharah's wastes, and Ormond was before the caravan, with all the noises of her streets again with Aladin and

his family; but the prisoners, saw only the authorities, to whom they were consigned, ere to the palace walls, passed on the rest.

Joyous their welcome, as the citizens poured from their homes to meet, and tell to them by tears and laughter, and the lengthened shout from many throats, how full had gratitude, made all their hearts; and when the door of home, stood open wide before them, and their eyes beheld the ones they left in charge, crowding its threshold eagerly, to aid them, as they entered once again among its treasured things, how ardently their spirits turned in thanks, unto Our Heavenly Father; that at length, it might be theirs no more, to feel a need, recalling them unto the pyramid.

Greetings were over, and the servants made all haste to carry to the vaults beneath, the packs from off the camels, then to care for them, as Aladin required.

Sat all at the repast prepared for them, and gave account in part, of all that had befell, to those they left behind; and then did Ibrahim direct Mustapha and the men that he should name as helpers, to lead the beasts to market, all save three.

Lillah, with Aladin beside her, entrance made to all apartments of the house so dear, and found in each, a witness to the faithfulness of those that had there told, their stewardship.

Resting amid the luxury, and air cooled by great fans, waved in the hands of those that were well paid, and gave with service, love as well, did they that found relief from every care, sleep time away, till evening came, and found them ready for the interchange of deepest, tenderest thought.

No more, their hearts turned longingly unto the tent beneath the palm trees, in Egyptian land, where jasmine crept, and sweetness told among the fine green grasses of low graves, round which their memories clung most lovingly.

Dear unto them the scenes of other days, when with the passing years, the true heart's mate was found, where little else made brightness for their lives, and all was with them of deformity of mind, among the Bedouin band, whose wives and little ones were with the caravanserie, where Aladin had been with Lillah and her father, for a time.

Tethered their Arab barbs of mettle fine, and when within the market place they stood, offered to buyers, little time was given for barter, until all were sold; and the price helped to make the owner comfortable.

Never from all their care, released his mind him who had promised them his aid, when lay their sole support upon the sod, soaked with life-blood that then, could no more throb through evil hearts, impelling unto deeds that suffering brought, intense as that felt by the ones left by them, at the well.

Thus was the wealth found in the pyramids, made that to bring unto the poor, relief from curse which followed after all the cost to them, in the long past; when Pharaohs sat with heel upon the necks of slaves, that built the monuments unto their sin, that ruled.

CHAPTER XI

As Ibrahim advanced into the time lying along the verge of earthly life, no loss of all his insight into hearts of men, marked a decadence of the faculties, that had maintained for him, respect of all, wherever might his

words of truth be heard; and when at last the evening did appear, towards which his eyes had turned since Lillah made of Aladin her choice, he felt that August Life had rounded up a brimming cup of happiness, with years of usefulness.

Calmly he looked upon the rising moon, gilding the way by which his spirt should move on, in peacefulness entire, until it met an angel gliding there, to welcome him.

Her would he tell, as on his arm she leaned, leading his feet unto the shining strand where, with the little one they lost on earth, long had she been in blissful life so sweet, that he had held unto her wishes, fast; and brought their Lillah, safe to Heaven (in mind) and her full life, was crowned with all their hearts might wish it to contain.

And when the morning broke upon his sight, he laid his hand in blessing, on the head, of their sweet child, that wept so bitterly, with Aladin beside her kneeling form, and said in feeble voice, but cheerily, My Children, I am going home; to where the lilies ever bloom, the birds alight upon the palm trees near the tent,

and warble sweeter songs than were with ours beside the living well, that made the mosses where my Lillah's feet were buried in their carpeting of green, more beautiful than any earth around; and all the ground of Heaven, where I look, is like to that.

Full are my years, with all that love can give; and with thy mother, Lillah of my heart, will I be with thee, wheresoe'er shall meet thine eyes, with aught thy future holds, yet lacketh me.

Make to thyself all happiness below, sure that with me, it cannot be enhanced; but feel with all thou doest, all thou hast, I will be with thee where thou wishest—and not more.

Sacred, the heart's most deeply tender hours, and I am with the knowledge, mine were kept, even from my children; will they then feel all my lips have spoken, has become their thought?

Our Heavenly Father, bless Thou this, my child; and may Thy blessing rest on him that will for her, the coming years on earth, enrich with gifts too beautiful, for tongue of man to utter forth in speech, the amplitude of all they bring to her.

Keep Thou their ways; and be within their

hearts leading them on, until the brighter day shall break upon them, with as perfect peace, as now it breaks on me, and with my wife.

Closed were his eyelids, and the happy smile then resting on the tender lips, that told the last farewell to earthly love, made all his face to beam in radiance, where he lay; and Aladin bent over it with Lillah, as she pressed upon it kisses, bathing it with tears, and held her strongly to his aching heart, while whispering softly, Heaven's Will, be done.

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS
0 001 491 508 4